

MONTEREY COUNTY
Creating New Choices II Program – (\$1,000,000 grant)

Monterey's Creating New Choices II (CNC II) Program combines the evidence-based Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) model with intensive community probation efforts. The heart of CNC II is the multi-disciplinary FACT Team consisting of a Forensic Supervisor, Psychiatric Social Workers, a Behavioral Health Aide, a Probation Officer and a Psychiatrist, all of whom work together in developing individualized comprehensive treatment plans, providing intensive mental health and dual-diagnosis treatment, 24/7 support services, probation supervision, housing and benefit assistance, transportation, vocational and educational services (such as cognitive skills training and anger/stress management training), medication management/compliance and connections to community resources.

Another core component of the CNC II project is the county's successful Mental Health Court and Court Team, comprised of a judicial officer, District Attorney, Public Defender and court staff. This team along with the Mental Health Court Judge determines therapeutic interventions, graduated level of sanctions and use of electronic monitoring. The Mental Health Court will expand its calendar to 8 hours/week in order to serve an additional 30 clients. The Court Team will work hand-in-hand with the FACT Team in determining participant eligibility for the CNC II program.

Additional components of the CNC II program include in-custody psychosocial assessments for approximately 172 mentally ill offenders followed by integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment, increased housing options for program clients (including 6 board and care beds and a supportive housing program for 16 individuals), and the Seeking Safety program, a trauma-focused educational program implemented to educate females who have been victims of abuse. The Seeking Safety program will supplement the cognitive skills training with 25 additional topics including parenting skills, multiple health care needs and trauma resolution.

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